

Application #09/772,172

Cartier

In the claims:

Claims 1 - 10 (canceled).

1 11. (new) An ice breaker mat comprising:
2 a substantially flat compressible core constructed of a material that
3 maintains its compressibility in sub-freezing temperatures;
4 a waterproof flexible cover folded in half, each half being slightly larger than
5 said core, said cover being of a material that retains its flexibility in sub-freezing
6 temperature;
7 said core being positioned within said folded cover with the peripheral edges of
8 said cover, not including the folded edge, being sealed to each other to provide a snug,
9 airtight enclosure for said core;
10 said cover being of a dark, sun-absorbing color and having a finely textured
11 non-slip pattern over its entire outer surface so that said mat is reversible in use;
12 whereby when ice or frozen snow covers said mat, the weight of a person
13 standing thereon causes the mat to compress, thus cracking the ice or frozen snow to
14 facilitate removal thereof from the mat.

1 12. (new) The mat of claim 11 wherein said core is coated with an adhesive
2 material that secures the core to said cover to prevent relative movement therebetween.

1 13. (new) The mat of claim 11 wherein the color of said cover is black.

1 14. (new) The mat of claim 11 wherein said cover is made of a polyvinyl chloride
2 material and said core is made of a urethane foam material.

1 15. (new) The mat of claim 11 further comprising means for securing said mat to
2 the horizontal portions of a flight of outdoor stairs.